

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1895.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The National Conference of 1895 is now among the things of the past. Its work is done and the workers have returned to their homes, we trust, to carry out the wishes of the Conference and await results. While the attendance was not as large as we expected, the work done is, we believe, very satisfactory to all, and the reports of former Conferences exceedingly gratifying. Several things are clearly manifest to those who were present at this Conference.

1. The rapidity with which business is done. We can now do as much in one day as we did formerly in three days. There is very little time spent in organizing, and the Conference enters upon its regular business, at once, without the loss of time.

2. The deliberations of the Conference were characterized by the blessed spirit of the Master. The debates were earnest, but not personal. We do not remember of any harsh, cruel words, spoken at this Conference. For this we praise the Lord. Subjects upon which widely different opinions prevail are now discussed at our Conference in a spirit that shows real progress. We are pleased to note this fact.

3. We are becoming much better acquainted with each other. We have more confidence in one another than we formerly had. Our experience in former Conference work has taught us that it is possible to do business for the Master in a business like manner, trusting one another as becomes children of God. On the whole the Conference was a great success.

THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.

In this issue of the EVANGELIST will be found a full report of the proceedings of our National Conference. We here enumerate some of its more important work, and also the results of the work of former Conferences.

MISSION WORK.

Our National Mission Work is yet in its infancy, and comparatively we have done nothing. There is a little money in the

treasury, and the prospects are fairly good to establish a permanent fund for this work. The Board through brother J. D. McFaden, asks for \$500, which amount they guarantee to duplicate. That is the Board offers to give one dollar for every dollar contributed by the church, on condition that the amount is not less than \$500. It is our opinion that for the present, the National Board should direct its efforts to the city of Chicago, and keep at it until we have a church in that city. Philadelphia and Pittsburg have proven that there is large room in our large cities for the Brethren church. This work deserves the attention of the entire church.

ON GOVERNMENT.

Brother J. C. Mackey presented a paper looking toward a better system of government for the Brethren church. A commission, consisting of five ministers and five laymen, was appointed to make a careful study of governmental expediency, and present, to our next Conference, the results of their investigation. This in our opinion, is a step in the right direction. The present condition of affairs, so far as government is concerned, is evidence that there has not been a proper application of Gospel principles.

THE BRETHREN HYMN BOOK.

The B. B. and T. Committee reported music and hymns sufficient to make a large hymn book, but no funds with which to prosecute the work. The reader is referred to the special announcement on page 1.

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY.

The report of Ashland University is truly gratifying. The whole church has reason to feel encouraged over the result of last year's work. It was a decided success, both from a literary and financial standpoint. With an enrollment of 72 students, the school has been almost self-sustaining, the deficit being but a few dollars. This gives evidence of the most careful financial management, which we trust the brotherhood will fully appreciate.

Steps have been taken to liquidate the entire debt of the University. The plan adopted by the Board of Trustees is a good one and the various districts should go to work with a will, to raise the required amount. One strong pull, will liquidate the debt. Let us do it brethren, and we will all feel the happier for it. District Conferences should take hold of the work and push it with great earnest-

ness. If they cannot raise the amount, borrow it, and pay it in small installments.

THE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

The Book and Tract Committee reported the publishing interests of the church as making progress. The Sunday-school literature is a little more than self-supporting, so also is the tract department, including donations received.

THE S. S. C. E.

This society is becoming a great power for good in the Brethren church. The report of the sisters made at this Conference is very encouraging. They are doing a good work, and should be encouraged by every member of the church. They have given very substantial aid to the College and Missionary work, and they have promised still more. The progress of the S. S. C. E. is most gratifying, its growth almost phenomenal, and the outlook very encouraging. We have reasons to look for great things from society.

KING'S CHILDREN.

As a National organization, endorsed by the church, this Society is but two years old. It is one of the most flourishing institutions in the Brethren church, having doubled its membership within the last year. There are now over ninety organizations with a membership of over 1500. This is an excellent showing, considering that the Society is but two years old. But while the growth of this society has been astonishing, its work along the line of practical Christianity, has been more so. The work accomplished by these young people cannot be overestimated. Through its influence, men and women have been brought to the church, and their souls saved.

But how about its finances? Who would believe it? At this Conference, Brother Talley astonished every one present by the statement that the K. C. Society was ready to donate the sum of \$100 to the Brethren Book and Tract Committee. It must be said that the success of this Society is largely due to the untiring zeal, and the indefatigable efforts of Brother Talley who has thrown his whole soul and heart into this work. We have here an example of what one man can accomplish. Of course, much credit is due others who have been faithful in this work, but we mention his name as the leader of the movement. Let all the pastors and churches encourage the K. C. movement.